

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 07445 281726Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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Z 281710Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW FLASH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 8710

S E C R E T BEIRUT 7445

EXDIS

MOSCOW FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LE US

SUBJ: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FRANGIE TO PRESIDENT NIXON AND
GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV

1. AT 1800 LOCAL THIS AFTERNOON, JUNE 28, PRIME
MINISTER TAKIEDDINE SOLH CONVOKED ME FOR 1900 HOURS
LOCAL. UPON ARRIVAL AT HIS HOME, I CROSSED WITH
ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR WHO WAS DEPARTING. PRIME
MINISTER GAVE ME SIGNED LETTER IN ARABIC FROM
PRESIDENT FRANGIE TO PRESIDENT NIXON. HE SAID THAT
AN IDENTICAL LETTER WOULD BE GIVEN AT 1930 LOCAL
TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR AZIMOV FOR GEN SEC BREZHNEV.
ENGLISH TRANSLATION WILL FOLLOW WITHIN ONE HOUR.
PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT LETTER SEEKS PRESIDENT
NIXON'S ASSISTANCE IN CURTAILING ISRAELI ACTIONS
AGAINST LEBANON. LETTER STATES GOL SHOULD NOT REPEAT
NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMANDO ACTIONS IN ISRAEL.
ISRAELI REPRISALS ARE THOSE OF A GOVERNMENT AND NOT
THOSE OF INDIVIDUALS. PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT LETTER
ASKED PRESIDENT NIXON TO RECOGNIZE THE "PERSONALITY"
OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR "RIGHTS". I ASKED
PRIMIN TO SHOW ME WHERE THIS PASSAGE EXISTED IN
ARABIC. HE THEN TRANSLATED FROM ARABIC INTO FRENCH
PARAGRAPH 7. THIS PARAGRAPH, HOWEVER, DOES NOT REPEAT

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NOT MAKE ANY SUCH SPECIFIC REQUEST. IT MERELY

ALLUDES TO THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.
I CITE THIS BECAUSE IT MIGHT WELL APPEAR IN LOCAL
PRESS AS PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED IT TO ME AT FIRST.
I ASKED PRIMIN IF LETTER WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC. HE
RESPONDED IN THE NEGATIVE BUT STATED THE PRESS WOULD
BE TOLD THAT SIMILAR LETTERS WERE BEING SENT TO OUR
PRESIDENT AND BREZHNEV. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE
TEXT OF THE LETTERS WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO
"ARAB AMBASSADORS IN BEIRUT". IT IS THEREFORE ME
STRONG HUNCH THAT THE TEXT IS PROBABLY NOW BEING
LEAKED TO THE PRESS. MY CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER
IS KNOWN TO THE PRESS BUT I MADE NO REPEAT NO COMMENT TO
THEM REGARDING ANY ASPECT OF MY CALL.

2. I ASKED PRIMIN IF LETTER REFERRED IN ANY WAY TO
ANY ARAB ACTION TO CURTAIL COMMANDO RAIDS IN ISRAEL.
PRIMIN APPEARED SURPRISED BY THIS QUESTION AND SIAD "WHAT
CAN ANY ARAB STATE DO?".
GODLEY

SECRET

NNN

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